



Task Risk Assessment
Task: Brushcutter

Date: 18/06/2024

This risk assessment will be updated annually following a review or whenever further risks or control measures are identified.

Prior to the task taking place the task leader will assess the task and give a risk assessment briefing to all staff and volunteers to include use of tools, site conditions, manual handling etc.

PPE required to carry out this task:	Safety helmet to EN 397 Hearing protection to EN 352 Face visor EN166 rated B (medium impact) or mesh visor with goggles (B rated). Safety boots to BS EN ISO 345-1 Gloves to BS EN 388 Personal first aid kit (on harness) Harness adjusted correctly to height of operator High-visibility clothing when working on or near a public highway or when visibility is poor. Long trousers and non-snag clothing advised.
Training required to carry out this task:	Industry standard training such as NPTC or Lantra: 001421 - City & Guilds NPTC Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Brush-cutters and Trimmers OR in-house training provided by NPTC or Lantra ticket holder.
Can this task be carried out by a lone worker:	Yes
Minimum level of first aid required to carry out this task: (EFAW, FAW, FAW+F)	Emergency First Aid at Work (Operator)

HAZARD Potential Harm	PEOPLE AT RISK	EXISTING CONTROL METHODS Staff and volunteers instructed or trained to:	FURTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED	CORRECTIVE ACTIONS		
				WHO	WHEN	COMPLETED
Untrained user: Causing injury to self or others	Operator, staff, volunteers, bystanders.	All operators must have attended training. Read the manual specific to the machine to familiarise with the controls and proper use.				

Moving machine into and out of transporting vehicle or storage space: Muscle strain, lacerations	Operator	Follow Manual Handling Risk Assessment. Share heavy loads. Wear gloves.				
Unsafe machine: Injury	Staff Volunteers	Check the machine and maintenance records before use, and report any issues to senior ranger. Ensure safety stickers are present and visible. Remove any damaged or malfunctioning brushcutter from use and mark with hazard tape until repaired. Carry out annual service of machines.				
Fuelling Injury from ignition / explosion	Staff Volunteers	Store fuel in a clearly labelled, suitable container at least 10m away from any sources of ignition. Allow engine to cool before refuelling. Use non-spill fuel spouts to ensure fuel does not come into contact with engine. Replace all filler caps securely after filling. Clean up any spills immediately using dry spill granules.				
Machine Operation Muscular / skeletal injuries	Staff Volunteers	Undertake all pre-start checks. Wear all required PPE. Take regular breaks. Use the harness at all times and adjusted correctly to the operator.				
Flying objects / projectiles Physical injury from collision	Staff, Volunteers & Public	Check work area before starting for surface debris and remove or mark hazards. Use signage in public access areas. Select appropriate blade type for the job. Ensure the correct guards are fitted for blade type. Maintain safe working distance of 15m. Wear face visor EN166 rated B (medium impact) or mesh visor with goggles (B rated).				
Moving Parts Cuts, lacerations and abrasions	Staff Volunteers	Turn off the engine and remove machine from harness before removing vegetation blocking the blade and guard. Carry a personal first aid kit at all times.				
Engine Hearing damage, HAVS	Staff Volunteers	Take regular breaks from using the machine Do not exceed 5 hour use a day. Wear ear defenders - to EN 352.				

Exhaust fumes: Inhalation	Operator, staff & volunteers	Only turn engine on in well ventilated spaces.				
Cutting on a slope: Physical injury, straining body or losing control of the machine	Operator, staff & volunteers, bystanders.	Do not cut on slopes which are too steep i.e. <u>above 20°</u> . Exercise extreme caution when cutting on slopes. Work across the face of slopes. Only cut on a slope in dry weather.				
Remote working / difficult access Delayed assistance.	Staff	Discuss emergency plan prior to starting work (e.g. grid reference, W3W, vehicle access)				

The task covered by this risk assessment should only be carried out by a member of staff or volunteer who is trained and authorised to do so. If you have any medical condition which might increase the likelihood of an accident or injury resulting from carrying out this task then you must discuss this with and be authorised by your line manager, before you attempt the task.

	Assessment date	Assessor	Position
Initial assessment undertaken on	August 2009	Alison Vallance	
Review 1 completed:	11/08/2010	Alison Vallance	
Review 2 completed:	30/08/2011	Luisa Boheimer	
Review 3 completed:	24/09/2012	Luisa Boheimer	
Review 4 completed:	04/09/2013	Luisa Boheimer	
Review 5 completed:	18/12/2014	Simon Best	
Review 6 completed:	17/09/2015	Simon Best	
Review 7 completed:	05/04/2016	Steven Wrigley	Warden
Review 8 completed:	06/04/2017	Steven Wrigley	Warden
Review 9 completed:	11/12/2018	Lucy Duerdoth	Community Reserves Warden
Review 10 completed:	08/10/2019	Chris Parker	Head of Land Management
Review 11 completed:	10/10/2020	Tim Read	Senior Ranger
Review 12 completed:	05/10/2021	Tim Read	Senior Ranger
Review 13 completed:	03/10/2022	Tim Read	Senior Ranger
Review 14 completed:	10/10/2023	Tim Read	Senior Ranger
Review 15 completed:	25/06/2024	Tim Read	Countryside Manager
Review 16 completed:			